



Global Business Dialogue

Remarks by Gov. Jan Brewer

Friday, May 25, 2012

Good morning.

I am pleased to be here to support Arizona's gem - Thunderbird - and proud my Arizona Commerce Authority is a partner in such a prestigious gathering of great minds.

I want to briefly share with you how Arizona has approached its economic challenges and has emerged more aggressive and more competitive.

I made a promise to the people of Arizona when I became Governor – to create quality jobs – jobs that put people back to work – jobs that are critical for our state to become more competitive in the global economy.

Today, I am proud to stand before you and share - yes, we are making remarkable progress. I call it the Arizona Comeback.

The ugly realities of the Global economic crisis has hit every nation, every region.

In 2009 - More than 300-thousand Arizonans had lost their jobs. Arizona exports were off about 30-percent. Plus, there was decreased demand from Asia and European markets.

I knew the solution demanded a combination of lean regulations, competitive tax rates and a ready workforce.

We began re-thinking areas of our tax structure that unduly burdened employers, particularly those requiring large capital investments such as manufacturing.

We enacted better ways to treat property taxes - in business property taxes and in capital gains taxes.

My strategy also engaged the top, brightest and best business talent in Arizona. The result is my Arizona Commerce Authority.

My Competitiveness package completes an aggressive new approach of how we are helping businesses grow, re-locate and - most importantly - create high-value jobs.

My efforts have led to a steady decline in Arizona's unemployment. And forecasts point to employment gains in all sectors over the next two years - adding nearly 103-thousand jobs.

This month, Chief Executive Magazine recognized Arizona's business climate in its top ten. We are again a leader in job growth.

Arizona recently received admirable distinction from the Kauffman Foundation as the "number one" place in the United States for entrepreneurs to start and operate a business.

Ranked Number One for our quality and availability of workforce.

We're a renewable energy leader - Consistently in the Top Three among alternative energy leaders and Number One in solar energy manufacturing.

Today, we are attracting the industries necessary for the 21st Century - those that are vital to the Arizona Comeback

Many of you are familiar with Arizona thanks to one of our most treasured assets - Thunderbird School of Global Management.

For the Alumni gathered, I encourage you to come and re-discover Arizona.

From its red rock mountains, sparkling lakes and serene deserts -- the Grand Canyon State is a place of traditions, legacies and timeless finds.

Our Tourism Industry is an important economic driver: In 2010, nearly 37-million visitors spent close to \$18-billion throughout the state.

Arizona offers great destinations, and a strategic location with a highly skilled workforce, low payroll taxes, and the right climate that make good business sense.

This is how we're building a more diverse and sustainable Arizona economy engaged in the global market.

Please, introduce yourself and dialogue with my team at the Arizona booth during the break.

Thank you.